

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ANTANA 00831 041157Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 TRSE-00 NEA-10 MMO-01

ARA-06 OMB-01 EB-07 /113 W

-----041315Z 125137 /45

R 040854Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9179

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANTANANARIVO 0831

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MA

SUBJECT: CONVERSATIONS WITH FRENCH AND BRITISH AMBASSADORS

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR PIERRE HUNT TOLD ME MAY 3 THAT HE HAD
RECENTLY HAD A CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA DURING
WHICH LATTER HAD SAID FOLLOWING:

A. HE CONSIDERS CURRENT USG INITIATIVES ON INDIAN OCEAN
TO BE "TACTICAL MANEUVERS" BUT SHOWED INTEREST IN KNOWING MORE
ABOUT THEM.

B. HE CONTINUES TO REJECT SOVIET APPROACHES FOR MILITARY
COOPERATION INCLUDING USE OF MALAGASY PORTS. IT WAS NOT CLEAR
WHETHER SOVIET APPROACHES DEALT WITH PORT CALLS OR POSSIBLE
SHORE FACILITIES.

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C. HE CONSIDERS DIEGO GARCIA DIFFERENT FROM SOVIET
FACILITIES IN SOMALIA, IN THAT FORMER INVOLVES QUASI-
TERRITORIAL CONTROL OVER ISLAND, EVEN IF JOURNALISTS
CAN VISIT, WHEREAS SOVIETS JUST HAVE ACCESS TO FACILITIES
ON SOMALIAN SOIL (SIC).

D. RATSIRAKA INTIMATED TO AMBASSADOR HUNT THAT DRM

HAD INDEED REJECTED SOVIET AND CUBAN SUGGESTIONS THAT
PODGORNY AND CASTRO VISIT MADAGASCAR DURING THEIR RECENT
AFRICAN TRIPS.

2. VISITING BRITISH AMBASSADOR BROWN, RESIDENT IN
DAR ES SALAAM AND FORMERLY AMBASSADOR RESIDENT IN
TANANARIVE, SAID THAT RATSIRAKA HAD FINALLY UNDERSTOOD
THAT CLOSURE OF BRITISH EMBASSY HERE IN 1975, THREE WEEKS
AFTER HIS OWN ACCESSION TO THE PRESIDENCY, WAS NOT
MOTIVATED AGAINST HIM BUT RESULTED FROM FINANANCIAL DIFFI-
CULTIES AND "THE REPORTS OF AMBASSADOR CROSSWAITHE,"
BROWN'S PREDECESSOR. RATSIRAKA TOLD BROWN THAT THE ENGLISH
NOW SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND THAT HE HAD TO DO AND SAY CERTAIN
THINGS IN VIEW OF DRM'S POLITICAL ORIENTATION, BUT
THAT "UNFORTUNATELY, THE AMERICANS STILL DON'T SEEM TO
UNDERSTAND THAT."BARRETT

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, MA, FR, UR, UK, US, (RATSIRAKA, DIDIER), (HUNT, PIERRE)
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